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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/402,021	09/27/1999	MINORU TSUJI	KOIK-P9143	5446

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EXAMINER

SELLERS, DANIEL R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2615

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/06/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/402,021	TSUJI ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Daniel R. Sellers	2615		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 April 2007.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3,5-7,9-15,18,19 and 25-31 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-7,9-15,18,19 and 25-31 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 27 September 1999 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-15, 18, 19, and 25-31 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. **Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-15, 18, 19, and 25-31** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shishido et al., (previously cited) and Tsukagoshi (USPN 5,684,542) (hereinafter Shishido and Tsukagoshi).

4. Regarding **claim 1**, Shishido teaches a method comprising the steps of: storing a data block to be used repeatedly at least twice out of a plurality of data blocks obtained at least by dividing a digital signal on a time base, said block being stored separately from said remaining data blocks (col. 2, lines 4-18 and col. 25, lines 27-32). Shishido discloses a method of MIDI file compression, wherein a block obtained by dividing a signal on a time base to be used repeatedly within a file is stored only once in the compressed file along with information to retrieve the original file. The repeated block is inherently stored separately from the other remaining data blocks, and the individual blocks in said remaining blocks are stored individually, or separately, from each other (i.e. a computer, as taught by Shishido, inherently can read or write blocks of memory individually because they are separable by address). However, Shishido

does not teach the steps of (1) receiving information indicating the period of time during which said data block is retained, wherein the period of time is related to each use of said data block and (2) deleting said data block based on said information. Shishido teaches a Lempel-Zif (LZ) method of compression for music signals, which is an exemplary version of run-length coding (col. 4, lines 11-19; wherein LZ compression replaces blocks of data, or characters, with data referencing an entry into a codebook and run-length coding replaces blocks of data with data referencing the number of similar characters appearing in a series).

Tsukagoshi teaches the decoding of subtitle data, wherein run length coding is used to compress the subtitle data (col. 9, lines 46-61). Tsukagoshi teaches a buffer in a run length decoding circuit (fig. 10, unit 14 and fig. 11, unit 22). The buffer temporarily stores the data block in a separate medium from the remaining blocks, wherein the remaining blocks are inherently stored in another medium before decoding. Tsukagoshi teaches the feature of receiving information indicating the period of time during which said data block is temporarily retained in a separate medium, wherein the period of time is related to each use of said data block, and deleting said block based on said information (col. 17, lines 34-53). Tsukagoshi teaches that a number of accesses, or uses, can indicate the period of time a block is retained (fig. 9). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Shishido and Tsukagoshi to improve the performance of the decoder.

5. Regarding **claim 2**, the further limitation of claim 1, Shishido discloses that a MIDI musical performance file may be taken into a recording medium by way of a network before it is reproduced (col. 2, lines 34-38 and lines 45-49).

6. Regarding **claim 3**, the further limitation of claim 1, Shishido discloses a digital signal recorded in a recording medium (col. 1, lines 49-51).

7. Regarding **claim 5**, the further limitation of claim 1, Shishido discloses a file that has timing information indicating periods of time to use data blocks and a system using flags to determine how the file is reproduced from memory (col. 9, lines 19-21, 47-48, and 55-57, col. 10, lines 11-22, and fig. 11). Tsukagoshi teaches that a period of time starts when the data is read in, or accessed (col. 17, lines 34-53).

8. Regarding **claim 6**, the further limitation of claim 1, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 1. Tsukagoshi teaches that a predetermined period of time or a predetermined number of accesses determines when a block of data is removed from the cache

9. Regarding **claim 7**, the further limitation of claim 1, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 5. Tsukagoshi teaches the use of a predetermined period of time to determine the time of deletion, and it is inherent that a predetermined time can be referenced from the start of processing.

10. Regarding **claim 9**, the further limitation of claim 1, see the preceding argument with respect to claims 5 and 7. Shishido, further, teaches the use of timing events, which inherently can be used to indicate the start of the period of time for retention.

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11. Regarding **claim 10**, the further limitation of claim 1, see the previous office action. Shishido teaches the use of added information to compress the file. Tsukagoshi teaches the use of timing information for retention and deletion purposes. It is obvious to combine the two as stated previously.

12. Regarding **claim 11**, the further limitation of claim 1, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 1. Tsukagoshi teaches the use of timing information for retention and deletion purposes. It is inherent to delete the block of data after it is used for a final time for these reasons.

13. Regarding **claim 12**, the further limitation of claim 1, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 11. It is inherent that to improve buffer performance, the block would be retained until it was unnecessary.

14. Regarding **claim 13**, the further limitation of claim 1, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 11. It is inherent to delete the information when it becomes unnecessary for the purpose of efficient memory usage.

15. Regarding **claim 14**, the further limitation of claim 1, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 1. In this context, it is inherent that a predetermined bit string, in either hardware or software, defines a predetermined time period.

16. Regarding **claim 15**, Shishido teaches an apparatus comprising:
a first decoding means for separating a data block to be used repeatedly at least twice from the remaining data blocks of a plurality of data blocks obtained at least by dividing a digital signal on a time basis and decoding said data block, wherein said first decoding means extracts information indicating the period of time during which said

data block is retained, wherein the period of time is related to each use of said data block; (Refer to claim 1. Furthermore, see Shishido, col. 4, lines 11-19. A first decoding means is disclosed.)

a retaining means for temporarily retaining said data block to be used repeatedly at least twice from said first decoding means separately from said remaining blocks (See Shishido, col. 9, lines 41-51 and lines 55-57. Shishido discloses a temporary retaining means for storing all the data blocks, which are inherently separatable);

a second decoding means for decoding said remaining data blocks from said first decoding means and said data block to be used repeatedly at least twice from said retaining means (See Shishido, col. 4, lines 11-19. Shishido discloses a second decoding means for decoding remaining data blocks); and

control means for deleting said data block from said retaining means based on said information (It is inherent that the method Shishido discloses includes control means for memory management, and deleting, overwriting, or reallocation are basic functions of a memory management system).

Shishido teaches these features except for the information indicating a period of time for retention. As stated previously, Tsukagoshi teaches the use of timing information for the purpose of retention.

17. Regarding **claim 18**, the further limitation of claim 15, Shishido discloses a second decoding means, where it uses information to identify the coded blocks by type (col. 4, lines 11-19 and col. 26, lines 25-34)

18. Regarding **claim 19**, the further limitation of claim 15, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 1 and 18. Shishido discloses a decoding means, wherein reproduction time information is used (col. 24, line 60 - col. 25, line 14).
19. Regarding **claim 25**, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 15. The combination of Shishido and Tsukagoshi teach these features.
20. Regarding **claim 26**, the further limitation of claim 1, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 1. Tsukagoshi teaches a buffer to store the data block temporarily, wherein the buffer is inherently composed of a semiconductor memory.
21. Regarding **claim 27**, the further limitation of claim 15, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 26. Tsukagoshi teaches a buffer to store the data block temporarily, wherein the buffer is inherently composed of a semiconductor memory.
22. Regarding **claim 28**, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 1. The combination of Shishido and Tsukagoshi teaches these features, wherein the data is audio data.
23. Regarding **claim 29**, the further limitation of claim 28, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 1 and 29. It is inherent that the processing the remaining data blocks based on the one data block includes sequentially reproducing the remaining blocks, because the user would want to hear the audio data in an original sequential order.
24. Regarding **claim 30**, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 28. The combination teaches these features.

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25. Regarding **claim 31**, the further limitation of claim 30, see the preceding argument with respect to claim 29. The combination teaches these features.

Conclusion

26. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Rosenu et al., U.S. Patent 5,598,352, Gannon, U.S. Patent 5,990,407, and Abrams et al., U.S. Patent 6,658,309.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel R. Sellers whose telephone number is 571-272-7528. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 9am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on (571)272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



SINH TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DRS